Surge of World Sugar Prices

3400. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world sugar prices are on the surge as cane is diverted for production of ethanol;

(b) whether Brazil has started exporting ethanol and is curtailing sugar production adding strain to world sugar market; and

(c) whether Government would permit sugar factories to switch over to ethanol production thereby jeopardizing PDS system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Brazil has been exporting ethanol. However, its sugar production in the current sugar season 2005-06 is expected to be marginally higher than last year.

(c) In India, ethanol is produced from molasses (a by-product of sugar) and not from sugarcane juice. No adverse impact has been noticed on PDS system.

Flexible Complementary Scheme for Scientists

3401. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the flexible complementary scheme for scientists under his Ministry;

(b) whether the same is not being implemented properly in various research institutions of his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are also aware that R&D activities are suffering badly due to non-implementation of this scheme in various research insti-